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THE CONDOR

An Illustrated Magazine of Western
Ornithology

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NOTES AND NEWS

The attention of readers, who may not have seen the previous notice, is called to the fact that the present issue is being printed during the latter part of May. Consequently articles and notices which are sent later will not appear until September. For several reasons the September issue may be a few days late, but it is not likely to be much behind time.

'If nothing happens' the editorial sanctum will be in a tent at Camp Agassiz after June 15. To those who have been fortunate enough to spend longer or shorter periods with "the best camper of them all"—Mr. William W. Price, affectionately known as Billy to his nearer friends—further words on our part will be superfluous. But I fear there are many Cooper Club people who have not tasted the joys of Lake Tahoe, Glen Alpine, Mt. Tallac, and Desolation Valley. This region, lying just southwest of Lake Tahoe, is one of the wildest and most picturesque of the whole Sierra Nevada, and strangely enough is the most accessible. It was swept by glaciers in times past so that the mountains are wonderfully sculptured and diverse, and the forests open. Within easy walking distance of camp are a dozen peaks from eight to ten thousand feet high, and forty-four lakes—thirty, by the way, with trout. The camp itself is in a wide glacier gorge, and a huge glacier-rounded knuckle of rock, jutting from the hillside nearby, forms the "Council Rock" remembered by everyone who has visited the camp. For those who are interested in mountain sports or alpine natural history there is no region in California that can approach this. Till September 1 letters to the editor may be sent to CAMP AGASSIZ, TALLAC, CALIFORNIA, or to Palo Alto.

Mr. Grinnell writes that he will visit the higher parts of the San Bernardino Mountains this summer, and of course will be out of reach

of mail for a considerable portion of the time.

Notices of the Fourth International Ornithological Congress to be held at London, June 12 to 17, have been received. Members of the General Committee for the United States are Drs. Allen, Richmond and Stejneger and Messrs. Chapman, Elliot, and Ridgway.

Messrs. Finley and Bohlman started the latter part of May for the Klamath region of southern Oregon, where they will spend some time in photographing and studying the water birds which still teem in the marshes. In speaking of this locality a few extracts from a letter by Mr. Elmer I. Applegate of Klamath Falls may be of interest:

"Since the settlement of the Klamath country there have been some marked changes in the frequency of species, length of their visits, etc. For example, the common valley quail, formerly rare, is becoming much more abundant as the grain area of the region increases. During the winter, every cattle feed-yard supports flocks of them. They come to our yards each winter in increasing numbers where they feed with the cattle and have become almost domesticated. On the other hand, most water birds have greatly decreased in numbers. Encroachment upon their nesting and feeding grounds by stock, and wholesale slaughter by market hunters accounts for this, I think. Many wagon-loads of ducks go to the San Francisco markets during the winter months. Until the price of grebe skins became so low as to make the business unprofitable, tens of thousands of them were shipped out annually, threatening extermination. Years ago myriads of water fowl nested in the marshes about Swan Lake—ducks, terns, curlews, plovers, rails, various kind of snipe, etc. Now comparatively few nests can be found during the season. Sage hens are not nearly so numerous as formerly, and sharp-tailed grouse are rare. I have not seen a swan for several years. I don't know why there should be so few Clarke crows left. I can remember when the lower pine woods and juniper ridges were full of the noisy fellows: Pelicans, fish-hawks, cormorants, bald eagles and so on seem to be as plentiful as ever."

Our readers will remember that this was one of the early collecting grounds of the late Major Charles E. Bendire.

Mr. H. T. Clifton writes that Mr. W. Lee Chambers has left for the Bradshaw Mts., Ariz.

We have delayed our reviews so long that we inadvertently have failed to note in these columns Mr. Taylor's Standard American Egg Catalogue, Second Edition. Doubtless most of our readers are already familiar with it. Mr. Taylor has taken great pains to provide a catalogue giving the exchange values of eggs of North American birds. The list is prefaced by "Oological" by Taylor. F. M. Dille also contributes some "Ideas." "The exchange basis is worked out as consistently as possible, combining the views of many experienced collectors, and the prices, which are relative, are aimed to promote as far as possible equitable

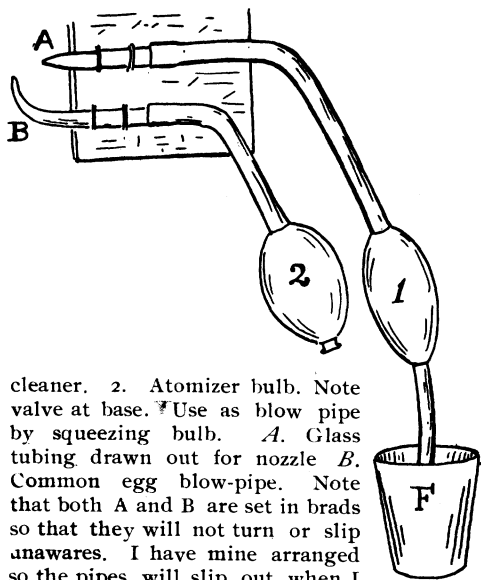
exchanges east and west, north and south. The exchange valuation is higher than cash valuation, the latter averaging perhaps one-third lower, but it is impossible to make a fixed comparison as all exchangers will agree." At the end is given a directory of persons having collections and desiring to exchange. The catalogue should prove of great practical value to persons desiring to exchange nests and eggs.

Frank H. Lattin and Ernest H. Short have recently issued "The Standard Catalogue of North American Birds' Eggs" (Fifth Edition, April 1905). This catalogue is also well known, the fourth edition having appeared in 1896. The present catalogue is printed on right hand page only, leaving the other for notes, and has a more durable cover than the last edition. We used to carry our copy in the field as a substitute for the bulky A. O. U. checklist and wore out several in this way. It is evident the present booklet will not so easily succumb to hard usage.

ERRATUM—In May issue, page 83, bottom line but one, read: "Robins have been present in about half their usual numbers during the past winter.—Dr. R. F. Rooney." This of course agrees with the other observations on the same page.

A New Egg Blower.—The following blowing and water-cleaning device, costing about \$1.50, is the best of all. By using the blower gently you can blow the smallest eggs as well as the large ones. You can get the bulbs at any drug store. Credit for the device must be given my friend Mr. Eastgate.

1. Common bulb syringe. Use as water



cleaner. 2. Atomizer bulb. Note valve at base. Use as blow pipe by squeezing bulb. A. Glass tubing drawn out for nozzle B. Common egg blow-pipe. Note that both A and B are set in brads so that they will not turn or slip *anawares*. I have mine arranged so the pipes will slip out when I

am through with them. The board stands on an incline and is placed at such a height that I am seated during entire operation. Directly beneath A and B, I place a large open can into which the water and egg matter falls. F. Pail of soapy water.

With the above apparatus you can blow eggs six times faster than with your mouth. The beauty of it all is that after filling the egg with water by means of the cleanser (as many times as you want to) you have another instrument that blows the egg perfectly dry. All small eggs should be held away from the nozzle in blowing and cleaning. It is also a good idea to cut lining around the drill hole with scalpel or other instrument before blowing.—W. L. COLVIN, *Osawatomie, Kansas*.

We regret to announce the death of Walter E. Bryant, honorary member of the Cooper Ornithological Club, at the Waldeck Sanatorium, San Francisco, May 21. A notice of Mr. Bryant's work will appear in a future issue.

Minutes of Club Meetings

NORTHERN DIVISION

MAY.—Instead of holding the regular meeting May 6th; it was held April 29th, in the Council Room of the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco. There being no executive officer present, H. R. Taylor was appointed chairman, and the meeting was called to order at 8:30 P. M. H. B. Kaeding was appointed secretary *pro tem*, and program was taken up. Mr. Taylor spoke on a recent visit of several Club members to the colony of great blue, and black-crowned night herons, at Redwood City, after which he discussed the action of the Fish Commission in refusing to grant permits to egg collectors. The following resolutions were introduced by Mr. Taylor, and unanimously passed by the seventeen members present:

WHEREAS, The Cooper Ornithological Club of California, organized for the study of Oology, and Ornithology in all its branches, recognizes and asserts the coordinate importance of Oology (the study of eggs and nests, and the working out of the life histories of North American birds), with systematic ornithology, as embracing the collection and comparison of bird skins in the furtherance of scientific investigation; and

WHEREAS, We further recognize that the collection and study of nests and eggs by Californian collectors, has been, and is, a prime factor in the growth and stability of this Club, while adding much to the storehouse of knowledge, and lending most materially to give this Club the high standing it now enjoys among men of science, and scientific institutions of this country and abroad, as one of the most active associations of bird students in the United States; and

WHEREAS, We regard any inhibition upon the scientific collecting of nests and eggs by our bird students as of serious detriment to scientific inquiry, and an infringement of the rights of a large number of members of this